in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. A1 2018 32 and will expire on January 1, 2020, unless renewed.

- 3. On or about December 7, 2018, Respondent was served by Certified and First Class Mail copies of the Accusation No. A1 2018 32, Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, and Discovery Statutes (Government Code sections 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7) at Respondent's address of record which, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 971 and California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2304, is required to be reported and maintained with the Bureau. Respondent's address of record was and is: 2720 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667.
- 4. Service of the Accusation was effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11505(c) and/or Business and Professions Code section 124.
  - 5. Government Code section 11506(c) states, in pertinent part:
  - (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files a notice of defense . . . and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all parts of the accusation . . . not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense . . . shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.
- 6. The Bureau takes official notice of its records and the fact that Respondent failed to file a Notice of Defense within 15 days after service upon them of the Accusation, and therefore waived their right to a hearing on the merits of Accusation No. A1 2018 32.
  - 7. California Government Code section 11520(a) states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense . . . or to appear at the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without any notice to respondent . . . .
- 8. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Director finds Respondent is in default. The Director will take action without further hearing and, based on the relevant evidence contained in the Default Decision Evidence Packet in this matter, as well as taking official notice of all the investigatory reports, exhibits and statements contained therein on file at the Director's offices regarding the allegations contained in Accusation No. A1 2018 32,

finds that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. A1 2018 32, are separately and severally, found to be true and correct by clear and convincing evidence.

9. The Director finds that the actual costs for Investigation and Enforcement are \$4,860.00 as of January 7, 2019.

#### **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

- 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent has subjected its Certificate of Authority License No. COA 135 to discipline.
  - 2. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.
- 3. The Director is authorized to revoke Respondent's Certificate of Authority based upon the following violations alleged in the Accusation which are supported by the evidence contained in the Default Decision Evidence Packet in this case:
- a. Respondent violated Health and Safety Code section 8585, subdivision (a), by and through Business and Professions Code (Code) section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, continuing to date, Respondent has failed to notify the Bureau of a change in ownership.
- b. Respondent violated Code section 7653.6, by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, and continuing to date, Respondent has operated a licensed cemetery and failed to employ and designate a licensed manager as required pursuant to Code section 7653.6.
- c. Respondent violated title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 2337, subdivision (a), by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around February 2018, Respondent failed to post a non-endowment care sign at the entrance of a cemetery.
- d. Respondent violated Code section 7637.1, by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, continuing to date, Respondent's employees have engaged in unlicensed practice as cemetery brokers.

- e. Respondent violated Health and Safety Code section 8277, by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent engaged in the improper execution of contracts.
- f. Respondent violated Health and Safety Code section 7111, by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around February 2018, Respondent's employees failed to get proper signature/authorization for interment, as required pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 7100.
- g. Respondent violated Code section 7685.5, subdivision (b), by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct in that in or around February 2018, Respondent failed to have the Bureau's current *Consumer Guide to Funeral & Cemetery Purchases* available to consumers.
- h. Respondent violated Code section 7685.5, subdivision (c), by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, and continuing to date, Respondent has failed to provide consumers with a copy of the *Consumer Guide to Funeral & Cemetery Purchases*.
- i. Respondent violated CCR section 2337, subdivision (b), by and through Code section
   7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct in that Respondent failed to include the
   Nonendowment Care Disclosure on its price lists.
- j. Respondent violated Code section 119, subdivision (a), by and through Code section 7711.1, subdivision (a), for unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent staff displayed or caused permits to be displayed, or had in his or her possession a canceled, revoked, suspended, or fraudulently altered license.

#### **ORDER**

IT IS SO ORDERED that Certificate of Authority License No. COA 135, issued to Respondent Westwood Hills Memorial Park, is revoked.

Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within

1	seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may								
2	vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.								
3	This Decision shall become effective on March 3, 2019.								
4	It is so ORDERED February 1, 2019								
5									
6	RYAN MARCROFT								
7	DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION								
8	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS								
9									
10	13393267.DOCX DOJ Matter ID:SA2018101997								
11	Attachment:								
12	Exhibit A: Accusation								
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# Exhibit A

Accusation

(WESTWOOD HILLS MEMORIAL PARK)

1	XAVIER BECERRA								
2	Attorney General of California DAVID E. BRICE								
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General PATRICIA WEBBER HEIM								
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 230889								
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255								
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7519								
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-8643  Attorneys for Complainant								
8									
9	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS								
10	FOR THE CEMETERY AND FUNERAL BUREAU								
11	STATE OF CALIFORNIA								
12									
13									
14	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. A1 2018 32								
15	WESTWOOD HILLS MEMORIAL PARK								
16	2720 Cold Springs Road, Placerville, CA 95667  ACCUSATION								
17	Certificate of Authority License No. COA 135								
18	Respondent.								
19									
20									
21	Complainant alleges:								
22	<u>PARTIES</u>								
23	1. Lisa M. Moore (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as								
24	the Bureau Chief of the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (Bureau), Department of Consumer								
25	Affairs.								
26	2. On or about May 1, 1950, the Bureau issued Certificate of Authority License No.								
27	COA 135 to Westwood Hills Memorial Park (Respondent). The Certificate of Authority License								
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A cemetery licensed under this chapter shall at all times employ a licensed cemetery manager to manage, supervise, and direct its operations. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, licensed cemeteries within close geographical proximity of each other may request the bureau to allow a licensed cemetery manager to manage, supervise, and direct the business or profession of more than one facility.

- (a) Every cemetery shall designate a licensed cemetery manager to manage the cemetery, and shall report the designation to the bureau within 10 days of the effective date. Any change in the designated manager shall be reported to the bureau within 10 days.
- 9. Code section 7685.5 states:
- (a) The bureau shall make available to funeral establishments and cemetery authorities a copy of a consumer guide for funeral and cemetery purchases for purposes of reproduction and distribution. The funeral and cemetery guide that is approved by the bureau, in consultation with the funeral and cemetery industries and any other interested parties, shall be made available in printed form and electronically through the Internet.
- (b) A licensee shall prominently display and make available to any individual who, in person, inquires about funeral or cemetery purchases, a copy of the consumer guide for funeral and cemetery purchases, reproduced as specified in subdivision (a).
- (c) Prior to the drafting of a contract for services, the licensee shall provide, for retention, the consumer with a copy of the consumer guide for funeral and cemetery purchases described in subdivisions (a) and (b).
- 10. Section 7711.1 of the Code states, in pertinent part:

Unprofessional conduct by any licensee or registrant or by any agent or employee of a licensee or registrant constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of this chapter and any regulation adopted thereunder, or of any federal or state law or regulation governing the disposition of human remains, operation of cemeteries or crematories, the sale of cemetery property, or the sale of crematory services or commodities.
- 11. Section 7711.2 states, in pertinent part:

The bureau may, upon its own motion, and shall, upon the verified complaint in writing of any person, investigate the actions of any person engaged in the business or acting in the capacity of a cemetery licensee, and may temporarily suspend or permanently revoke a license at any time where the licensee, within the immediately preceding three years, while a cemetery licensee in performing or attempting to perform any of the acts specified in this act, has been guilty of any of the following:

(a) Making any substantial misrepresentation.

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#### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- On or about September 25, 2017, the Bureau received a complaint that Respondent owner died in April 2017, and a new manager had not been appointed.
- 19. On or around January 3, 2018, Respondent staff continued to post the cemetery manager license of the decedent, and the original Certificate of Authority License, which listed the decedent.
- In or around February 2018, the Bureau received an additional complaint that similarly alleged that a new manager for Respondent had not been appointed, and Respondent was operating without proper licenses.
- During a Bureau investigation in February and March 2018, a Bureau investigator discovered the following:
- i. Respondent had removed the non-endowment care sign previously posted at the entrance of the cemetery;
  - ii. The staff selling property were all confirmed not to have licenses with the Bureau:
- iii. The licensed decedent's information was posted, and decedent was listed as a manager;
  - iv. Price lists failed to contain the Nonendowment Care Disclosure;
- v. The Bureau's current Consumer Guide to Funeral & Cemetery Purchases was not available for customer review and use;
- vi. A random sample of files showed that deeds contained the stamped signature of the decedent, or were unsigned.
- vii. Respondent failed to obtain interment authorizations in four previous inspections in 2006, 2010, 2013, and 2018, and continued to do so as of February 28, 2018.
- 22. During their investigation, the Bureau investigator also discovered that as early as September 2017, Respondent was served notice of their non-compliance with the law. A citation for non-compliance was issued to Respondent on November 13, 2017, and the Bureau provided another notice of non-compliance to Respondent on December 27, 2017.

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#### **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

#### (Failure to Properly Transfer Ownership)

23. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Health and Safety Code section 8585(a), by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, continuing to date, Respondent has failed to notify the Bureau of a change in ownership, as more particularly set forth in paragraphs 18-22.

## SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

## (Failure to Have a Licensed Cemetery Manager)

24. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 7653.6, by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, and continuing to date, Respondent has operated a licensed cemetery and failed to employ and designate a licensed manager as required pursuant to Code section 7653.6, as more particularly set forth in paragraphs 18-22.

## THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

## (Failure to Post Proper Entrance Signs)

25. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR section 2337(a), by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around February 2018, the Respondent failed to post a non-endowment care sign at the entrance of a cemetery, as more particularly set forth in paragraph 21.

#### **FOURTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

## (Engaging in Unlicensed Practice as Cemetery Brokers)

26. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 7637.1, by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, and continuing to date, Respondent's employees have engaged in unlicensed practice as cemetery brokers, as more particularly set forth in paragraphs 18-22.

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#### FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 1 (Engaging in the Improper Execution of Contracts) 2 Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Health and Safety Code section 3 8277, by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent 4 engaged in the improper execution of contracts, as more particularly set forth in paragraphs 18-5 6 22. SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 7 (Failure to Have Proper Authorization for Interment) 8 28. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Health and Safety Code section 9 7111, by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around 10 February 2018, Respondent's employees failed to get proper signature/authorization for 11 interment, as required pursuant to Code section 7100. 12 SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE 13 (Failure to Properly Display Consumer Guide) 14 29. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 7685.5(b), by and 1.5 through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around February 2018. 16 Respondent failed to have the Bureau's current Consumer Guide to Funeral & Cemetery 17 Purchases available to consumers, as more particularly set forth in paragraph 21. 18 19 **EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE** (Failing to Provide Consumers with Copy of Consumer Guide) 20 Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 7685.5(c), by and 21 through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that in or around April 2017, and 22 continuing to date, Respondent has failed to provide consumers with a copy of the Consumer 23 Guide to Funeral & Cemetery Purchases, as more particularly set forth in paragraphs 18-22. 24 111 25 26

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#### **NINTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

## (Failure to Include the Nonendowment Care Disclosure)

Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under CCR section 2337(b), by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent failed to include the Nonendowment Care Disclosure on its price lists, as more particularly set forth in paragraph 21.

## TENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

# (Display or Possession of a Canceled, Revoked, Suspended, or Fraudulently Altered License)

32. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 119(a), by and through Code section 7711.1(a), for unprofessional conduct, in that Respondent staff displayed or caused permits to be displayed, or had in his or her possession a canceled, revoked, suspended, or fraudulently altered license, as more particularly set forth in paragraphs 18-22.

#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Director of Consumer Affairs issue a decision:

- 33. Revoking Certificate of Authority License No. COA 135, issued to Westwood Hills Memorial Park;
- 34. Ordering Westwood Hills Memorial Park to pay the Cemetery and Funeral Bureau the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3; and,
  - 35. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

$_{\text{DATED}}$ : $ $	num	DU 20	1,2016	Mea	M)	4	10000
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EASA M. MOORE
Bureau Chief
Cemetery and Funeral Bureau
Department of Consumer Affairs
State of California
Complainant

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